

**REMARKS**

**ELECTION**

Original claims 1-17 were deemed to recite two patentably distinct inventions, including the article recited in claims 1-15 in Group I and the method recited in claims 16 and 18 in Group II. Applicants hereby elect prosecution of the method Group II without traverse. Claims 1-15 of Group I are thus hereby canceled without prejudice to their being filed in one or more divisional applications.

**ADDITIONAL CLAIMS**

New claims 18-29 are presented herein, which are drawn to a grip cap article that is made by a method similar to the method recited in claim 16. As such, they are believed to be part of the same invention and thus properly presented herein.

Applicants thus respectfully request that the pending claims 16-29 be entered into the record, and further that all pending claims be allowed to issue.

As a result of this amendment, fewer total and independent claims are currently pending. No fees are thus believed due for consideration of this timely filed response. Authorization is hereby given, however, to charge any fees deemed necessary to Deposit Account 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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